



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **SWIM-H2020 SM Regional Study Tour to state-of-the-art Solid Waste Management Facilities Introduction to new trends in dealing with Construction and Demolition Waste**

The rapid urbanization and expansion of infrastructure (roads, airports, etc.) have brought a construction “fever” in most of the Mediterranean countries, which has resulted in a considerable increase of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste.

Therefore, within the framework of the Regional Activities on Solid Waste Management, a Study Tour took place on 25-27 September 2017, in Brussels, Belgium to gather Stakeholders from the Project’s Partner Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia) with Experts, Practitioners and provide a high-level Field Visit, focusing on C&D waste which included site visits, trainings/workshops, exercises and discussions.

More than 30 Key Stakeholders of the Partner Countries were first introduced to the EU legislative framework, as well as to Belgian regulatory and economic instruments on Sustainable Construction & Demolition Waste Management.

They were also informed on the recent developments via case studies covering: collection and transport; recycling options; developing the market of C&D waste; technical specifications/standards for reuse/recycling and specific uses; risks and dangers involved; hazardous components to be avoided.

The Project’s willingness to support a Peer-to-Peer Process for experience sharing at the regional level and knowledge transfer on Sustainable C&D Waste Management was also introduced and case studies from the MENA region were presented.

The Field Visit included visits to state-of-the-art Solid Waste Management Facilities in areas around Brussels: De Meuter Recycling - sorting of mixed waste from demolition; ABR (De Meuter) - recycling of inert demolition waste; Tienen Facility SUEZ - sorting C&D waste into several pure fractions going to material recycling.

The participants were able to profit from first findings of ongoing studies, innovative C&D Waste Projects being developed in the territory (OVAM, Minerale/SUEZ, BPC, TIVOLI Project example from the CSTC/BBRI/IBGE study, Cenergie/Belgacom Project).

According to Belgium’s Circular Economy Strategy and Regional Waste Management Plan, 90 % of all C&D waste is to be recycled by 2025; an ambitious but highly feasible goal.

**According to the SWIM-H2020 SM Working Plan, the Peer to Peer Activity will run all the way till the end of 2018.**

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## Sustainable Water Integrated Management and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Working for a Sustainable Mediterranean, Caring for our Future.

This Project is funded by the European Union.

The civil society component of SWIM-H2020 SM is facilitated by the UfM labelled BlueGreen project and network.

### SWIM and Horizon 2020 Support Mechanism Project

The **SWIM-H2020 SM EU-funded Project** aims to contribute to the sustainable use of scarce water resources and properly manage municipal waste, industrial emissions and waste water, and therefore enhance, directly and indirectly, resilience to climate variability and change in the entire region with emphasis on the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, [Syria] and Tunisia).

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### Photos

